PharmAdvances

Guide for Authors and Workflow proposal

Edra S.p.A.
Via G. Spadolini 7
20141 Milano - Italia
Telefono: +39 02 881841
Telefax: +39 02 88184301
edra_spa@pec.it

Iscrizione al Registro delle
Imprese di Milano n.2000629
Partita Iva e C.F. 08056040960
Cap. Soc. Euro 329.670,00 i.v.

JOURNAL SCOPE AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

PharmAdvances is the Italian Society of Pharmacology (SIF) Official Journal and embraces and strengthens its purposes: promote the research in basic and applied pharmacology; contribute to advance the pharmacological sciences; facilitate the worldwide exchange of knowledge and experience; develop and support scientific, educational and social aspects of pharmacology in academic, health, industrial and political settings.

The publication of PharmAdvances coincides with a paradigm shift that is taking place in pharmaceutical research, moving from a closed and isolated process to a new open model: innovation is more and more generated through international networks, where skills and excellence seemingly distant from each other can meet. Industry-academic research partnerships have indeed become a new R&D model for gaining access to cutting-edge science and new technologies.
This scenario demands new tools to promote, stimulate and support the international research network on pharmacological fields.

PharmAdvances is a four-monthly English language Journal, published by Edra, with the intent to expand the horizon of pharmacology discipline and encourage high-quality international research.
The editorial policy is guided by the high standards of scientific quality and integrity. At the core of PharmAdvances is our commitment to provide authors with a fair assessment of their work while ensuring that we publish only excellent science. In order to do that we will meet three requirements: Section editors must be able to identify respected scientists in the field to serve as Reviewing editors, the Journal must deliver a fair reviewing process and must provide a clear and fast decision.

All aspects of pharmaceuticals research and production chain will be covered, across themed sections: Preclinical pharmacology, Clinical pharmacology, Drug Discovery and Ethics.

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CONDITIONS OF SUBMISSION AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Manuscripts are considered for publication with the understanding that they do not contain previously published material, have not been published previously and are not currently under review at another journal. All manuscripts must also be accompanied by an adequately compiled and signed Journal Publishing Agreement.

If the manuscript is accepted for publication in Pharmadvances, the authors guarantee that it will not be published elsewhere in any other language without permission from the copyright holder.

The authors of manuscripts that include illustrations, tables and/or sections of text that have been published previously elsewhere must request permission to reproduce the material from the copyright holder. This permission must be presented in written form during submission of the manuscript. In the absence of such permission, all material received will be regarded as the authors' own work.

Manuscripts that report the results of research conducted on human subjects must include a declaration in the *Methods* section that the study protocol was approved by the competent Ethics Committee, that the study was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards established in the Declaration of Helsinki of 1946, and that informed consent was obtained from all participants before enrolment in the study. All details that could reveal the identity of a patient (including initials of the patient name and unnecessary reference to personal data such as occupation and residence) must be omitted from the text and illustrative materials. The patients must provide written informed consent to the publication.

If experiments have been conducted on animals, the study must have been conducted in accordance with the *International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals* guidelines recommended by the *World Health Organization (WHO)* for the use of laboratory animals, and such adherence must be explicitly stated in the manuscript.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Once a manuscript is accepted for publication, each author must complete and sign a *Conflict of Interests disclosure form*, which specifies all economic, personal and professional relationships that could become a conflict of interests, that could be perceived as a possible conflict of interests, or that could influence the work of the author described in the manuscript. All of the declarations will appear after the *Acknowledgements* section of the article. The editorial office reserves the right to reject any manuscript that does not conform to the above-described instructions. The authors will be held responsible for any false declarations or noncompliance with the instructions specified above.

The Conflict of Interests disclosure form must be sent, complied and signed, alongside with the Journal Publishing Agreement to the editorial office e-mail address editorialoffice@pharmadvances.com.

Full Authors Guidelines, online Submission System link, Journal Publishing Agreement and Conflict of Interests forms are available on www.pharmadvances.com.

REVIEW PROCEDURE

The decision to publish a manuscript is based on a peer-review process, and acceptance of an article will be based on criteria of originality, relevance, and scientific content of the contribution. Papers are rapidly, rigorously and fairly peer reviewed by international experts on our Board of Reviewing Editors and other members of the international community. The review process is transparent in that all review documents are published as supplementary materials to the paper.

Pharmadvances applies a double-blind improved transparent, fair and constructive review process in which both the authors' and the reviewers' identities, gender and affiliations are concealed.

The process is completely objective, that focus remains on the content of the article and the possibility of reviewer bias is eliminated. Reviewer bias may be favorable or unfavorable and could based on the author's previous work or country of origin, for example.

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To facilitate this, the authors need to ensure that manuscripts submitted to Pharmadvances are prepared in a way that does not reveal their identity. Reviewers are chosen on the base of their expertise and knowledge on the selected paper topics.
Each paper will be read by at least two referees. Authors may be requested to modify the text based on the comments of reviewers, to which they should respond point by point. If the paper is accepted, the most relevant comments of the reviewers and the authors responses will be published.
We are committed to publishing papers as quickly as possible, while maintaining scientific excellence and rigor. Final papers are published online ahead of issue publication.

EDITORIAL WORKFLOW		
Step	**Editorial Office(OE) /Editor in CHief (EIC) /Section Editor (SE)**	**Comments**
1	Author submits paper	
2	EO receives new submission	
3	EO executes Technical Check	
4	EO initiates discussion	
5	EO assigns the paper to the EIC. According to paper topic, EIC assigns paper to SE (Preclinical pharmacology, Clinical pharmacology, Drug discovery, Ethics). The SE decides together with the EIC if the submitted paper should be accepted for further revision or rejected	Editors discuss on the paper and decide on: - Removal (like "Rejection") - Sent back to author: paper returns to author who may revise it and resubmit - Assignment: paper will be assigned to an editor
6		The assigned SE will alone follow the paper in the subsequent steps
7	SE identifies and invites the reviewers	2 Reviewers (default) 30 days to review (original manuscripts)
8	Reviewers send in their comments and recommendation	EO/SE sends reviewers reminders if necessary
9	SE/EO receives reviewer comments	Only assigned editor receives
10	SE makes a recommendation accordingly	SE decides (revise, accept, reject) and shares its decision with the EIC. EO receives notification
11	In case of revision, EO notifies the Authors	
12	In case of revision, Authors submit revised paper to EO	Author submits revision (deadline: 2 months)
13	EO assigns paper to previous SE	
14	In case of revision, SE sends revised paper to the Reviewers (if necessary or requested by Reviewers)	7 days to review (revised manuscripts). Reviewers can see comments from authors
15		Reviewers send their recommendation
16	SE receives recommendation	Only assigned editor receives
17	SE sets a (final) decision	SE decides (revise, accept, reject) and shares its decision with the EIC. EIC confirms.
18	EO notifies the Author	
19	EO sets final disposition	Publishing editor receives paper

Statements made in the manuscripts are the responsibility of the author and not of the editor. The opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and may not reflect the position of the editors.

Article processing charges

Pharmadvances is an Open Access journal. The corresponding author of every manuscript submitted is requested, after acceptance, to pay the Article Processing charge to cover the publishing costs of the paper. Publishing fees vary depending on the article type.

Article Type	Fees
Research Articles	500 euro
Opinion Paper	400 euro
Review	350 euro
Societal Take	free
Poster in Pharmacology - Post-it	free

The publishing fees for longer articles will have an *ad hoc* assessment.

Manuscripts with outstanding payment will not be published until the balance is cleared.
Once the paper is accepted for publication in Pharmadvances the author will be requested to submit a **Licence Statement**. Upon acceptance of the Licence Statement the author will receive an invoice. Article processing will commence after the amount due has been remitted to Edra's account. (Please note that there is no peer review charge, the only applicable fee is the article processing charge for authors of accepted papers).
The Open Access policy of the journal includes the free and unrestricted self-archiving of the final published version if papers on the Author's webpage or on the Author's institutional repository with open or restricted access. When self-archiving or communicating a paper via e-mail, the Author should quote the correct citation and enclose a link to the published article.

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Types of article

Research Articles

These submissions must report important and novel material within the field of preclinical pharmacology, clinical pharmacology or drug discovery.
The text should be 3000-5500 words (8 to 16 typed, double-spaced pages) not including references, tables, figures.
No more than 50 references will be accepted.
The article must be subdivided into the following sections: introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, conclusions.
The **introduction** should describe the theoretical background, the aim of the study and the hypothesis to be tested. The **materials and methods section** should describe in a logical sequence. In the **results** section the answers to the questions posed in the introduction should be given. The results should be reported fully, clearly and concisely supported, if necessary, by figures, graphs and tables.

The discussion section should sum up the main results, critically analyze the methods used, compare the results obtained with other published data and discuss the implications of the results. The conclusions should briefly sum up the significance of the study and its future implications.

Opinion Paper

Opinion Articles allow researchers to publish an opinion on the interpretation of facts, value of methods used, weakness and strengths of any scientific theory or on any topic relevant to the field of research. Opinion Articles allow maximum freedom of expression for researchers. With rare exceptions, these essays are meant to express a personal viewpoint and should have no more than two authors. Manuscript should not exceed 2000 words.

Review

Review are summaries of recent insights in specific research areas of a topic that has direct relevance to the pharmacological field. Key aims of Review are to provide systematic and substantial coverage of mature subjects, evaluations of progress in specified areas, and/or critical assessments of emerging technologies. They should discuss a topic of current interest, outline current knowledge of the subject, analyze different opinions regarding the problem discussed, be up-to-date on the latest data in the literature. Normally these are authored by individuals who have themselves made a significant contribution to the original literature on the topic under review and are acknowledged authorities in the field. Review article should be between 2000 and 4000 words (abstract non-included) and not exceed 5000 words.

Societal Take

Poster in Pharmacology - Post-it

The publication of longer articles will have an *ad hoc* assessment.

COVER LETTER

A cover letter must be included with each manuscript submission. It should be concise and explain why the content of the paper is significant, placing the findings in the context of existing work and why it fits the scope of the journal. Confirm that neither the manuscript nor any parts of its content are currently under consideration or published in another journal. Any prior submissions of the manuscript to other journals must be acknowledged.

ESSENTIAL TITLE PAGE INFORMATION

The **first page** of the manuscript must contain:

Title

The title of the manuscript should be concise and specific. Manuscripts must be submitted with both a full title (maximum of 100 characters) and a short running title (maximum of 40 characters), abbreviations are not allowed in the titles.

Author names and affiliations

Authors names should be listed in the following order: First name, middle initial, last name.
Each author should list a department, university, city and country (please avoid writing your academic position such as resident, fellowship, assistant or associate professor). The PubMed/MEDLINE standard format is used for affiliations: complete address information including city, zip code, state/province, country, and all email addresses. At least one author should be designated as corresponding author, and his or her email address and other details should be included at the end of the affiliation section.

Abstract
A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions structured thusly: Objective, Methods, Results and Conclusions (except for case reports/series, that should have the following structure: Background, Case presentation/study, Discussion, Conclusions). An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, references should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

Keywords
Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 5 keywords, avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

Impact statement
The impact statement is single sentence (typically 15-30 words) that summarizes the most important finding of the work: it needs to complement (rather than repeat) the title and should avoid acronyms that are not well known to a broad readership.

Funding
In addition to a list of the sources of funding, authors are also expected to provide the relevant grant numbers, where possible, and list the authors associated with the specific funding sources. Authors are also required to state whether the funding sources were involved in study design, data collection and interpretation, or the decision to submit the work for publication.

Conflict of interest
All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the work submitted that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. Also state if no conflict was present by writing “The authors declare no conflict of interest” or “The authors report no financial or other relationship relevant to the subject of this article” or any other similar statement.

Impact statement
The impact statement is single sentence (typically 15-30 words) that summarizes the most important finding of the work: it needs to complement (rather than repeat) the title and should avoid acronyms that are not well known to a broad readership.

The style of writing should conform to English usage and syntax. Authors whose mother tongue is not English are urged to have their manuscripts checked for linguistic correctness before submission. Slang, technical jargon, obscure abbreviations and abbreviated phrasing should be avoided.

On the **pages that follow**, develop the manuscript as follows:

Introduction
Should establish the rationale for the research and contain only the essential information and citations.

Materials and Methods
Provide a detailed description of the materials and methodologies used, clarify all ethical aspects (see the Conditions of submission section).

Results
Present the results of the research clearly and exhaustively. Should give answers to the aimed aforementioned in the introduction and provides main findings and trends.

Discussion
Analyze the results obtained and their clinical implications. Should compare and contrast the results with relevant researches, it must be mentioned whether the hypothesis mentioned in the article is true, false or no conclusions can be derived

Conclusions
Present the significance of the results and the final observations of the authors.

References
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa).
References should be in the order:

- the order number corresponding with that of appearance in the text;
- the author's name(s) followed by initial or first name;
- the title of the work, in the original language;
- for journals: usual title abbreviations according to international nomenclature and in the order: year, volume number, issue number (in parenthesis), first and last page numbers of the work.

For example:
Bodtger U, Linnegerg A. Remission of allergic rhinitis: An 8-year observational study. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2004; 114(6):1384-8.

For books: name of the author/editor, title, publisher/institution, town where published, first and last page number of the work.
For example:
Paupe J, Scheinman P (Eds). Allergologie Pédiatrique. Flammarion, Paris, 1988: 324-42.

NOTE: Do not write the references using uppercase, small caps or italics. For abbreviation of titles, use the international standards from Index Medicus.

Tables
All tables must be presented in separate files in a text format. Tables must be identified and referred in the manuscript with roman numerals and accompanied by a brief caption.
Tables will not be accepted in PowerPoint, PDF or JPG formats, which require retyping of the text for uniformity of style with journal graphics.

Figures
The figures (i.e., photographs, graphs, and diagrams, including flow charts) themselves should be submitted separately from the manuscript file (one file for each figure). Each figure should be numbered with an arabic numeral (according to its citation in the text). For composite figures, each component should be labeled with lowercase letters (e.g., Fig. 1a).
Photographs, graphs, diagrams, and *flow charts* must be supplied in one of the following formats: JPG (high resolution: min 300 dpi), TIFF (high resolution: min 400 dpi), or EPS (high resolution: min 600 dpi).
Scanned images must be acquired with high resolution and saved in a high-resolution format.
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Authors should make sure that photographs of patients contain no identifying features. The patient must be asked to provide written informed consent to the publication of the photograph.
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Note: Figures must be presented separately, not inserted in the manuscript text and must not contain trade names or bibliographic references.

Legends
A caption should comprise a brief title and a description of the illustration. Captions for figures are to be provided in the text file at the end of the manuscript.

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Source data files
Pharmadvances strives to make supplementary data, if applicable, easily accessible, searchable and citable, and made available in the most useful format for reuse. Pharmadvances encourages authors to provide Source data files, for example, for figures such as histograms or tables showing summary data.
Each Source data file should relate directly to a single figure or table, whereas major datasets generated in the course of the work should be deposited externally. Each source data file should be clearly labelled, 'Figure 1–Source data 1', 'Table 1–Source data 1' and so on, and have a short title (and optional legend).
Source data files should be referred to in the relevant figure legend or table footnote, and they should also be listed at the end of the article text file.

In addition, authors should provide information about data processing and analysis, including any statistical tests applied, with exact sample number, p-values of tests, criteria for data inclusion or exclusion, and details of replicates. In some cases, it might be unwieldy to have this information in the legend of a figure, in which case the information should be provided along with the source data file.
Wherever possible, authors should make major datasets available using domain-specific public archives (for example, GenBank, Protein Data Bank, ClinicalTrials.gov), or generic databases (for example, Dryad, Dataverse, the Open Science Framework or an institutional repository) where a domain specific archive does not exist. A comprehensive catalogue of databases has been compiled by the BioSharing information resource.

Acronyms, abbreviations, units of measurements
Pharmadvances recognizes the adoption of the International Systems of Units (SI-Units). Acronyms, abbreviations, and units of measurements without a legend and/or incomprehensible are not permitted. When necessary, a list of abbreviations may be inserted after the abstract.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST
The following list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal for review. Ensure that the following items are present:
One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded, and contain:
- Keywords
- All figure captions
- All tables (including title, description, footnotes)

Further considerations:
- Manuscript has been “spell-checked” and “grammar-checked”
- References are in the correct format for this journal
- All references mentioned in the Reference list are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)

ONLINE PROOF CORRECTION

Proofreading is the responsibility of the authors regarding content, and of the editors regarding the technical part. The proofs for correction will be sent to the corresponding author indicated in the manuscript. These must be corrected and returned to the editorial office by the date indicated in the accompanying letter and within 5 working days of their receipt.
After this deadline, ex officio correction and/or postponing of publication will occur, depending on the editorial priority of the Editor in Chief.
Responses received after the indicated date and requests for sending to another or more than one author, different from the one indicated in the manuscript, will not be accepted.

Note: proofreading corrections must avoid modifying the graphics already defined or modifying the content so to require a new peer-review process.